

Introduction

State of Indiana's environment

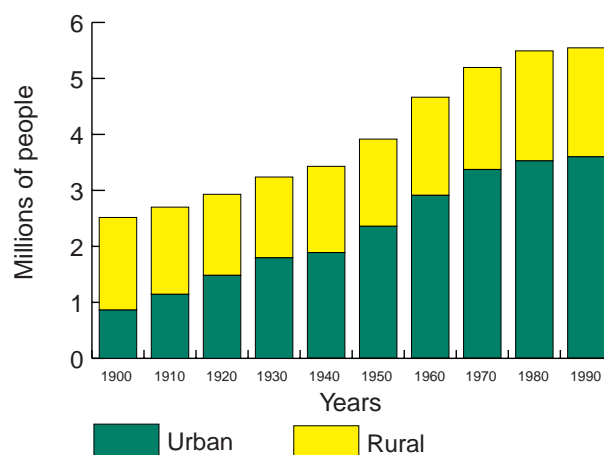
This is the second annual *State of the Environment Report* published by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The report provides a snapshot of Indiana's environment in 1998, summarizing the condition of Indiana's air, water and land.

Indiana's prosperity and our quality of life depend greatly on the quality of our environment.

Our population has more than doubled in this century. Manufacturing is a big part of Indiana's economy—more than in almost any other state in the country. Agriculture is also a significant part of the economy. All of this activity stresses our natural resources and our environment.

As a state, we have made great efforts in recent years to improve and protect our environment. As a result, our air is much cleaner. Our rivers and lakes are less polluted. We manage our dangerous waste products more safely. Polluted sites are being cleaned up, and all of us have increased our awareness about how we affect our environment. Some problems have been solved: Lead is out of our gasoline and paint, phosphorous contamination of surface water has decreased, wastewater treatment has improved, and landfills are now properly built and managed.

Indiana population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990

Where Hoosiers work

• Manufacturing	24 percent
• Services	23 percent
• Retail Trade	19 percent
• Government	13 percent
• Transportation, Communications, Public Utilities	5 percent
• Wholesale Trade	5 percent
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5 percent
• Construction	5 percent
• Agriculture/Other	1 percent

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, 1997

We have made real progress in the past 20 years, but many environmental challenges remain. Too many Hoosiers still breathe unhealthy air or live near threatened waters or contaminated sites. Each year valuable farmlands, forests, lakes and wetlands are threatened or lost by the ongoing growth and movement of our population.

Our collective commitment to protect our environment must grow along with our expectations for a better life for ourselves and our children. We all want a high quality of life, which includes a high quality economy and a high quality environment—they are two sides of the same coin.

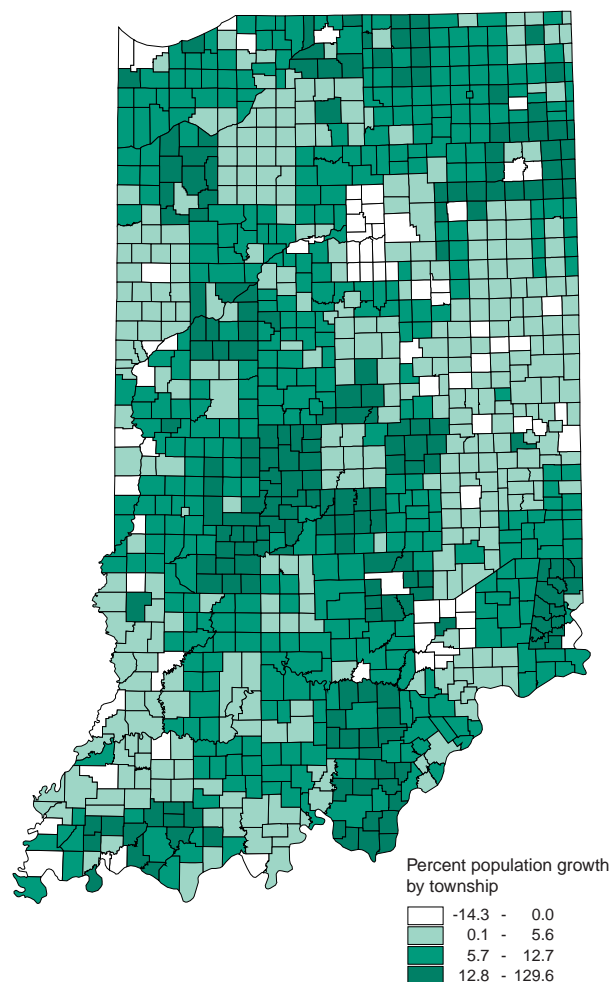
To continue to clean our air, water and land, we must:

- Solve water quality problems in an integrated manner by watershed and basin;
- Integrate smart environmental decision-making into business and government planning;
- Prevent pollution whenever possible;
- Better manage the stresses created by urban development and rural activities; and
- Minimize effects of chemicals on the environment.

Use this report, seek more information and be involved in your environment. We all have to pitch in to improve Indiana's environment and our future.

This report, with links to more detailed information, is posted on IDEM's World Wide Web site at www.state.in.us/idem/soe/99report/.

Population change 1990-1996



Source: Indiana Business Research Center, 1998